

# Hamden Middle School

## The Dragon's Tale: Principal Coogan's Weekly Update

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## Hamden Middle School Family Newsletter Tuesday, September 8, 2020

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### DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENT CHROMEBOOKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

*Inquiring minds want to know... When can I pick up my child's Chromebook and school supplies from Hamden Middle School?* The time is now; well, actually on Thursday! Please carefully read the following notes to ensure you are ready.

**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2020

**Location:** Hamden Middle School

**Times:** 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- Parents will visit HMS between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Follow security's directions to drive around the building and along the side of the cafeteria.
- Distribution of Chromebooks and/or School Supplies will go to:
  - All Grade 7 Students
  - Grade 8 Distance Learning Students
  - Grade 8 Students assigned to Hybrid Model Group 2.
    - (Last name begins with L-Z.)
- If your child is in eighth grade and assigned to the Hybrid Model Group 1, we will provide the Chromebook and school supplies on the first day of school.
- -Every student will receive a backpack full of school supplies. All seventh grade students will receive a Chromebook, and eighth grade students will only get a Chromebook IF they never borrowed one from school.
- **-Important Note:** Families must return any Chromebooks borrowed from their elementary schools, in order to receive a new Chromebook and school supplies. Be sure to bring any Chromebooks, textbooks, or school supplies with you on **Thursday**.

Receiving a Chromebook and school supplies is exciting and the next step in preparing for the reopening of school.

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### A NOTE FROM THE HMS HEALTH OFFICE

Did you know all seventh grade students must have an updated physical with documentation of two vaccines, **MENINGOCOCCAL** and **T-DAP**? It is a state law that students cannot begin school without these vaccines. We are still looking for over 200 incoming seventh grade students to submit their updated

physical and immunization records. Please contact Nurse Julie Beaver at [jbeaver@hamden.org](mailto:jbeaver@hamden.org) or Nurse Rebecca Buenano at [rbuenano@hamden.org](mailto:rbuenano@hamden.org) or call the Health Office at 203-407-7192.

## STUDENT SCHEDULES

We heard a wonderful rumor that students may be getting a glimpse of their teachers through invitations to join Google Classrooms. On Thursday morning, parents can access student schedules in PowerSchool. When families log into PowerSchool, they will see their child's schedule, including a list of their class titles, teacher names, and room numbers. The following chart highlights the names of teachers on each team. Parents can compare the schedule to this chart to identify their child's team assignment.

Hamden Middle School House Teams			
<b>Grade 7 House 2</b>  <b>English:</b> Mr. Gallo <b>Math:</b> Ms. Simone <b>Science:</b> Ms. Symonaitis <b>Social Studies:</b> Mr. Tremper <b>Special Education:</b> Ms. Camacho	<b>Grade 7 House 3</b>  <b>English:</b> Ms. Coggins <b>Math:</b> Mr. Stanton <b>Science:</b> Ms. Press <b>Social Studies:</b> Ms. Delcervo <b>Special Education:</b> Ms. Kidder-Blake	<b>Grade 7 House 4</b>  <b>English:</b> Ms. Lamothe <b>Math:</b> Mr. Perito <b>Science:</b> Ms. Kim <b>Social Studies:</b> Mr. Ugolik <b>Special Education:</b> Ms. Holt	<b>Grade 7 House 5</b>  <b>English:</b> Ms. Riley <b>Math:</b> Mr. Walton <b>Science:</b> Dr. LeVier <b>Social Studies:</b> Ms. Shilling <b>Special Education:</b> Ms. Mus
<b>Grade 8 House 1</b>  <b>English:</b> Ms. Stoeffler <b>Math:</b> Ms. Zarate <b>Science:</b> Mr. Marzano <b>Social Studies:</b> Ms. Morello <b>Special Education:</b> Mr. Franzoni  <b>ALsC:</b> Ms. Hall <b>ALsC:</b> Ms. Kimbell <b>ALsC:</b> Ms. Patnoad <b>ALsC:</b> Ms. Sullivan	<b>Grade 8 House 2</b>  <b>English:</b> Ms. Michaud <b>Math:</b> Ms. Morgillo <b>Science:</b> Ms. Johnson <b>Social Studies:</b> Mr. Rocco <b>Special Education:</b> Ms. Pandolfi	<b>Grade 8 House 3</b>  <b>English:</b> Mr. Evans <b>Math:</b> Mr. Mandel <b>Science:</b> Ms. DeLucia <b>Social Studies:</b> Ms. Williams <b>Special Education:</b> Ms. Britton	<b>Grade 8 House 4</b>  <b>English:</b> Ms. Domurad <b>Math:</b> Mr. Simone <b>Science:</b> Ms. Marcoux <b>Social Studies:</b> Ms. DeCarter <b>Special Education:</b> Ms. Quinonez

*\*Red denotes the name of the Team Leaders.*

**Important Note:** If a student is missing key residential information or medical information, he/she will not have access to his/her schedule until the information is provided to the school. In addition, students will not be allowed to begin school either in person or virtually without updated residential or medical information. Please contact the school with any questions or concerns.

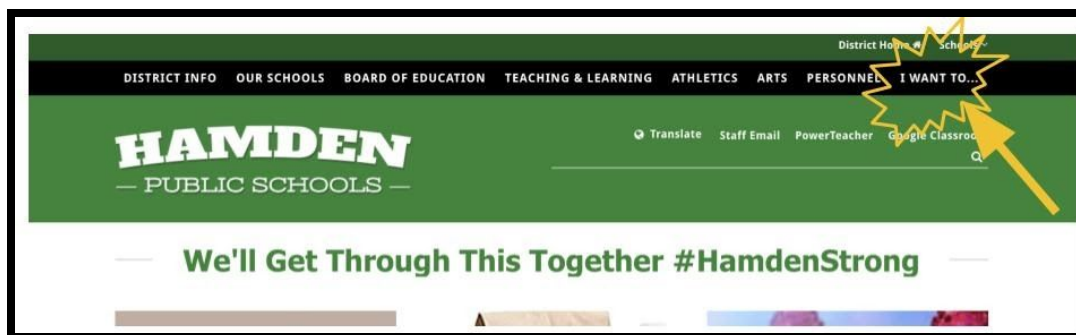
**Residential questions** can be directed to Ms. Gayle Colburn at [gcolburn@hamden.org](mailto:gcolburn@hamden.org) or 203-407-7189.

**Medical questions** can be directed to either Nurse Julie Beaver at [jbeaver@hamden.org](mailto:jbeaver@hamden.org) or Nurse Rebecca Buenano at [rbuenano@hamden.org](mailto:rbuenano@hamden.org) or call the Health Office at 203-407-7192.

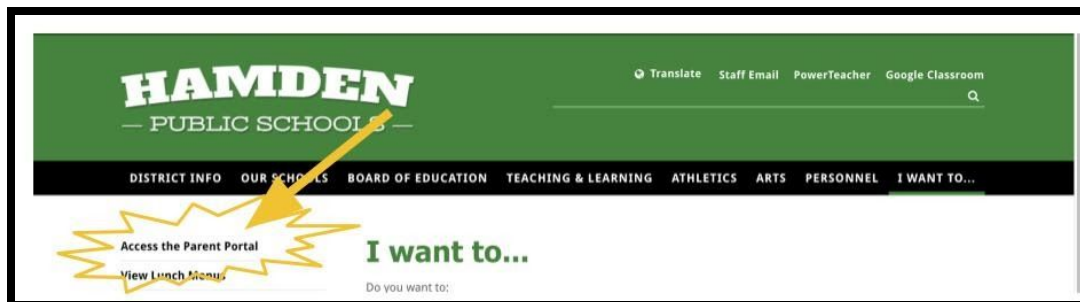
## TIPS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE PARENT PORTAL

The HPS district code is GJZC.

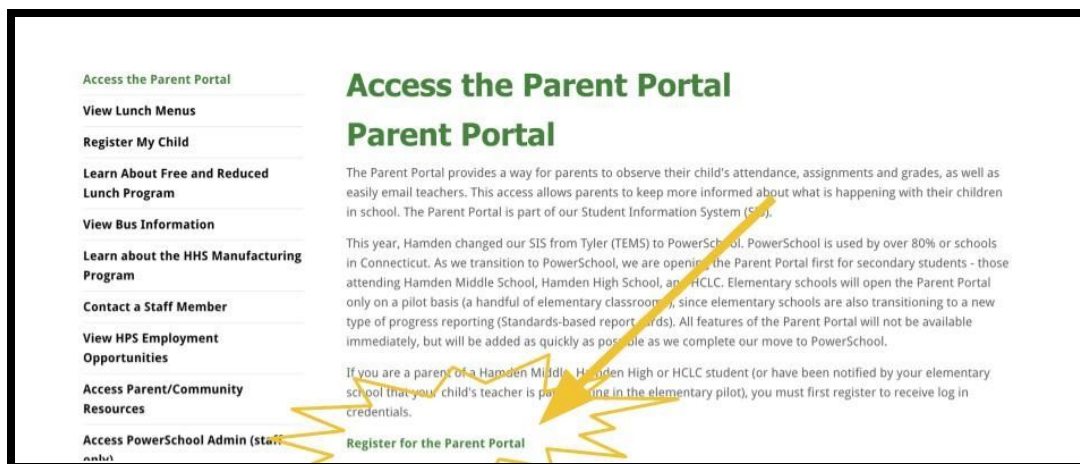
1.) Visit the Hamden Public Schools website and click on the "I WANT TO ...." tab.



2.) Click on "Access the Parent Portal."



3.) Click on "Register for the Parent Portal."



4.) Provide your first and last name, preferred email address, student first and last name, grade, preferred username. Click **SUBMIT**.

**Register for Parent Portal**

Students in Grades 7-12 may register to view the Parent Portal here.

Parents: Please complete the form below to receive credentials for accessing the Hamden Public Schools PowerSchool Parent Portal. You should receive login information within 72 hours. NOTE: The Parent Portal is currently open only to parents of students in grades 7-12. The Portal will open for elementary parents in the coming school year.

Parent First & Last Name\*

Parent Email Address\*

Student First Name\*

Student Last Name\*

Student Grade (K, 1, 2 ... 12)\*

Preferred UserName for Login\*

Do you have more than one child who attends school in Hamden? If yes, enter name(s) and grade(s) below.  
☒ Yes ☐ No

Don't forget to click **SUBMIT!**

## NEED HELP?

All questions regarding PowerSchool or ParentPortal should be directed to Stephanie Bezerra, HMS PowerSchool Clerk at [sbezerra@hamden.org](mailto:sbezerra@hamden.org). All questions regarding your child's schedule should be directed to Jessica Coffey, Gr. 8 Assistant Principal at [jcoffey@hamden.org](mailto:jcoffey@hamden.org).

## DISTANCE LEARNING MODEL

Some HMS students have selected the option to learn from home. We understand there are many questions about the Distance Learning Model, and we want to provide students and families with more specific information to help start the year.

**CHROMEBOOK & SCHOOL SUPPLY PICK UP:** Families should come to school on Thursday, September 10, 2020 to pick up their child's Chromebook and School Supplies. *(See article above for more information.)*

## HMS BELL SCHEDULE:

Students at home will follow the bell schedule. *(Bells may not ring in your homes, but we will follow the times outlined below.)* Students are required to log into class each period. There are seven classes per day. We also follow an A day, B day schedule. *(See below)* Some classes are offered each day, such as our Core Classes (i.e. English, Math, Science). Other classes are offered every other day, such as our Encore Classes (i.e. PE, Art, Music). When students and families review their child's schedule, they will be able to identify all classes for the first semester. You will notice there is time between classes for students to log out and into the next class. In addition, there is time for lunch each day.

## Hamden Middle School Bell Schedule

Grade 7 Bell Schedule		Grade 8 Bell Schedule	
7:45 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Morning Arrival	7:45 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Morning Arrival
8:00 a.m.-8:13 a.m.	Homeroom (Period 1)	8:00 a.m.-8:13 a.m.	Homeroom (Period 1)
8:13 a.m.-8:52 a.m.	Period 1	8:13 a.m.-8:52 a.m.	Period 1
8:52 a.m.-8:55 a.m.	Transition	8:52 a.m.-8:55 a.m.	Transition
8:55 a.m.-9:34 a.m.	Period 2	8:55 a.m.-9:34 a.m.	Period 2
9:34 a.m.-9:37 a.m.	Transition	9:34 a.m.-9:37 a.m.	Transition
9:37 a.m.-10:16 a.m.	Period 3	9:37 a.m.-10:16 a.m.	Period 3
10:16 a.m.-10:19 a.m.	Transition	10:16 a.m.-10:19 a.m.	Transition
10:19 a.m.-10:58 a.m.	Period 4	10:19 a.m.-11:24 a.m.	Period 4 & Lunch
10:58 a.m.-11:01 a.m.	Transition	11:24 a.m.-11:27 a.m.	Transition
11:01 a.m.-12:06 p.m.	Period 5 & Lunch	11:27 a.m.-12:06 p.m.	Period 5
12:06 p.m.-12:09 p.m.	Transition	12:06 p.m.-12:09 p.m.	Transition
12:09 p.m.-12:48 p.m.	Period 6	12:09 p.m.-12:48 p.m.	Period 6
12:48 p.m.-12:51 p.m.	Transition	12:48 p.m.-12:51 p.m.	Transition
12:51 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Period 7	12:51 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Period 7
1:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	Afternoon Dismissal	1:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.	Afternoon Dismissal

### HMS CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14	15 A First Day of School Group 1 (A-K)	16 B Group 2 (L-Z)	17 A Group 2 (L-Z)	18 B Group 1 (A-K)
21 A Group 1 (A-K)	22 B Group 1 (A-K)	23 A Group 2 (L-Z)	24 B Group 2 (L-Z)	25 A Group 2 (L-Z)
28 No School Yom Kippur	29 B Group 1 (A-K)	30 A Group 2 (L-Z)	1 B Group 2 (L-Z)	2 A Group 1 (A-K)

Group 1 (A-K): 6 days at school & 7 days at home

Group 2 (L-Z): 7 days at school & 6 days at home

**STUDENT SCHEDULES:** Schedules will be published in PowerSchool on Thursday, September 10, 2020. Parents are reminded to register for the Parent Portal as soon as possible. (*Information is provided above.*)

**GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODES:** Team Leaders will send home information regarding Google Classroom codes by the end of this week. Students will need these codes to log into their Google Classrooms. Students will be a member of a seven or more Google Classrooms. If students are having difficulty logging into their Google Classrooms, please contact the Team Leader or Ms. Coogan.

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:** On Tuesday, September 15, 2020, students are expected to follow their schedule and log into Google Classrooms. They should log into their first period class by 8:00 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Student attendance will be monitored for each of their classes. Attendance data from the first period of the day will be reported to the Connecticut State Department of Education. We strongly believe attendance is essential for student success. Students are expected to report for learning each day.

**REPORTING AN ABSENCE:** Parents should call the school by 9:00 a.m. to report an absence. Seventh grade families will call 203-407-7207. Eighth grade families will call 203-407-7180. Parents can also email their child's team leader or the school nurse.

**MODES OF LEARNING:** Our teachers will be responsible for instructing all of their students. Some students will be present in the classroom, and other students will be learning from home. Teachers are planning their units of study and daily lesson plans. When learning from home, students will be exposed to a variety of learning experiences. At times, the teacher may post a pre-recorded mini lesson. The teacher may also use Zoom to have students "live stream" into the classroom. Some learning activities will be independent, and other experiences may require students to work with others through Zoom breakout rooms or Google Hangouts.

We are embracing the following concepts: Passion, Perseverance, and Patience. Our teachers are passionate about their work. They know the importance of connecting with students. They are committed to planning engaging lessons and meeting the needs of all students. We understand there will be challenges. It is a new experience for all! If there are "bumps in the road," we will persevere until we are successful. Finally, we ask all members of our community to be supportive and patient. If your child is having trouble, contact your child's Team Leader or an administrator. We will work together!

### **SETTING UP YOUR CHILD'S WORK AREA AT HOME**

Students will be working from home in both learning models, Hybrid Learning and Distance Learning. It is important to find a quiet, positive work setting. Consider these recommendations:

- Locate a space away from siblings and family pets.
- Set up a clean table or desk near an electrical outlet.
- Be sure there is proper lighting.
- Get headphones or earbuds.
- Organize school supplies in the location.

- Select a neutral background for “zooming” into class, such as a plain wall.

Getting ready for the first day of school is important. We need to embrace a positive mindset and get organized.

## **ASSESSMENTS & GRADING**

Students will receive grades for their work during the first marking period. Teachers will be evaluating classwork and assessments. Specific information regarding grading will be shared in future communications. However, it is important to note that we will be returning to the practice of providing grades as a form of communication between school and home.

Distance Learners, you may be home, but **you** are important members of our school community. We will continue to reach out and celebrate your successes. We intend to challenge you each and every day of school. But, don’t worry... we are here to support you in this new journey of learning.

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## **Middle School Athletics Update**

At this time, we are pleased to announce our plans to offer a fall sports program at HMS. There are three fall teams, including:

- Boys Soccer Team coached by Mr. Jay Cebula;
- Girls Soccer Team coached by Ms. Nora Crann; and
- Girls Volleyball Team coached by Mr. Jimmy Poulsen.

HMS will follow guidance from the DPH and the CIAC. All teams will practice outdoors, and coaches will focus on skill based training. Teams will not compete against other schools, and there will be no games in our conference.

The program will be offered four days of the week, Monday through Thursday. Students will follow the Hybrid Learning model. Students who are participating in Distance Learning are eligible to participate, but must follow the schedule below:

Group 1 (Last Name Begins with letters A-K)	Monday & Tuesday (3:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.)
Group 2 (Last Name Begins with letters L-Z)	Wednesday & Thursday (3:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m.)

Our after-school program will begin at 3:00 p.m. and conclude at 4:45 p.m. Student athletes will go home after school and then return to school at 3:00 p.m. Parents must provide transportation to practice, and pick up at the end of practice. Students must dress appropriately for practice and bring a personal water bottle. Please note student athletes will not have access to the locker rooms facilities, and coaches are unable to provide water. It will be essential for student athletes to return to practice with the required items.

Parents who are interested in their child playing a fall sport, must complete the online registration using the link below for FamilyID. An email account is required to create an account on FamilyID. Once you complete the registration, the school nurse will review the necessary medical forms and HMS coaches will check for academic eligibility.

<https://www.familyid.com/programs/2020-fall-athletic-registration-3>

Parents who have additional questions should contact Tom Dyer, HPS Director of Athletics, at [tdyer@hamden.org](mailto:tdyer@hamden.org) or Robert Mandel, HMS Athletic Coordinator, at [rmandel@hamden.org](mailto:rmandel@hamden.org).

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### **HMS OPEN HOUSE**

The annual Open House program will take place on **Tuesday, October 6, 2020**. (5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.) This date was rescheduled due to the delayed start to the school year. Information regarding the virtual program will be shared in future communications.

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### **QUESTIONS?**

We are trying to provide information through the weekly school newsletter. *The Dragon's Tale* will continue to be an important resource, and it will be emailed home to all HMS families at the start of each week. We also hosted an HMS Informational Webinar last week. Students and families are encouraged to watch it. Just click this link... [HMS INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR](#).

As much as we try to proactively communicate with all HMS families, we know there are more questions. Please continue to email Ms. Michelle Coogan, HMS principal, at [mcoogan@hamden.org](mailto:mcoogan@hamden.org). It helps to hear your questions and ideas. What do you want to read about in future newsletters? Parent feedback is welcomed and needed!